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## ADVANCE REPORT ON DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS AND ORDERS

February 1997

(All figures in text below are in seasonally adjusted current dollars)

• **NEW ORDERS** New orders for manufactured durable goods in February increased \$2.6 billion or 1.5 percent to \$178.3 billion, the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census reported today. This follows a 4.1 percent January increase. Excluding transportation, new orders increased 3.1 percent, following a 4.9 percent January increase. Year to date, new orders are 7.1 percent above the same period a year ago.

Electronic and other electrical equipment had the largest increase, \$2.1 billion or 7.4 percent to \$30.6 billion, due to communication equipment and electronic components. This follows a 17.9 percent January increase. Industrial machinery and equipment, up for the third consecutive month, increased \$0.7 billion or 2.2 percent to \$33.2 billion. This follows a 0.9 percent January increase. Instruments and related products, up for the fifth consecutive month, also increased. Transportation equipment, down two of the last three months, decreased \$1.5 billion or 3.6 percent to \$40.8 billion, with decreases in all component categories except railroad equipment. This follows a 1.6 percent January increase. Primary metals, down for the first month since October, decreased \$0.1 billion or 0.5 percent to \$15.8 billion, following a 5.1 percent January increase.

• **SHIPMENTS** of durable goods in February, up three of the last four months, increased \$2.4 billion or 1.4 percent to \$173.0 billion, following a 1.1 percent January increase. Year to date, shipments are 7.0 percent above the same period a year ago.

Electronic and other electrical equipment had the largest increase, \$1.2 billion or 4.6 percent to \$28.2 billion. This follows a 2.9 percent January decrease and is the first increase since November. Primary metals, up for the fifth consecutive month, increased \$0.1 billion or 0.7 percent to \$15.7 billion, following a 2.6 percent January increase. Transportation equipment, up three of the last four months, increased \$0.1 billion or 0.2 percent to \$39.9 billion, as increases in railroad equipment and aircraft and parts more than offset a decrease in motor vehicles and parts. This follows a 3.9 percent January increase. Industrial machinery and equipment, up two of the last three months, increased 0.1 percent to \$32.2 billion, following a 1.3 percent January decrease.

• **UNFILLED ORDERS** Unfilled orders for durable goods in February increased \$5.4 billion or 1.1 percent to \$499.5 billion. This follows a 1.1 percent January increase and is the ninth increase in the last ten months.

Electronic and other electrical equipment, up for the second consecutive month, had the largest increase, \$2.4 billion or 4.7 percent to \$52.7 billion, following a 3.1 percent January increase. Industrial machinery and equipment, up for the second consecutive month, increased \$1.1 billion or 1.5 percent to \$73.5 billion, following a 0.5 percent January increase. Transportation equipment, up nine of the last ten months, increased \$0.9 billion or 0.4 percent to \$256.1 billion, due to aircraft and parts. This follows a 1.0 percent January increase. Primary metals, up for the second consecutive month, increased \$0.1 billion or 0.5 percent to \$30.7 billion, following a 1.1 percent January increase.

• **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, DEFENSE** New orders in February increased 0.1 percent to \$6.3 billion, following a 21.6 percent January decline. Shipments, up for the first month since November, increased \$0.4 billion or 6.3 percent to \$6.4 billion, following a 1.2 percent January decrease. Unfilled orders, down for the first month since October, decreased \$0.1 billion or 0.1 percent to \$110.4 billion, following a 0.2 percent January increase.

• **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, NONDEFENSE** New orders in February increased \$1.7 billion or 3.7 percent to \$47.6 billion, following a 4.5 percent January increase. Shipments increased \$0.6 billion or 1.4 percent to \$43.8 billion. This follows a 3.3 percent January decrease and is the third increase in the last four months. Unfilled orders increased \$3.8 billion or 1.5 percent to \$257.1 billion, following a 1.1 percent January increase. Excluding aircraft and parts, new orders increased \$2.6 billion or 6.9 percent to \$40.5 billion, the second consecutive monthly increase; shipments increased \$0.7 billion or 1.9 percent to \$38.0 billion, the third increase in the last four months; unfilled orders increased \$2.5 billion or 2.6 percent to \$99.0 billion, the second consecutive monthly increase.

• **REVISED JANUARY DATA** Revised seasonally adjusted January figures for all manufacturing industries are: shipments, \$318.5 billion (revised from \$318.7 billion); new orders, \$323.3 billion (revised from \$323.2 billion); unfilled orders, \$519.2 billion (revised from \$518.9 billion); and total inventories, \$438.3 billion (revised from \$438.1 billion).

SEE BACK PAGE FOR UPCOMING REVISIONS

Our internet address is <http://www.census.gov/ftp/pub/indicator/www/m3adv.html>

This report presents advance information on two key business indicators: durable goods manufacturers' shipments and orders. Revised and more detailed estimates plus nondurable goods and inventory data will be published April 2, 1997. The advance report on durable goods for March is scheduled for April 29, 1997. This report is available on the day of issue through the Department of Commerce's online Economic Bulletin Board (N-8-1) (202-482-3870).

**Table 1. DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS AND ORDERS**  
(Millions of dollars)

Item	Seasonally adjusted						Not seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>			
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Percent change Feb.97/96
	Feb. 1997 <sup>2</sup>	Jan. 1997 <sup>2</sup>	Dec. 1996	Jan.- Feb. <sup>2</sup>	Dec.- Jan. <sup>2</sup>	Nov.- Dec.	Feb. 1997 <sup>2</sup>	Jan. 1997 <sup>2</sup>	Feb. 1996	
<b>DURABLE GOODS</b>										
<b>Total :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	172,967	170,555	168,719	+1.4	+1.1	-0.8	173,817	151,526	162,314	+7.1
New orders . . . . .	178,324	175,768	168,886	+1.5	+4.1	-1.7	180,862	162,771	164,896	+9.7
Unfilled orders . . . . .	499,484	494,127	488,914	+1.1	+1.1	0.0	502,705	495,660	468,475	+7.3
<b>Excluding defense :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	166,525	164,496	162,587	+1.2	+1.2	-0.8	167,419	146,571	156,543	+6.9
New orders . . . . .	172,002	169,450	160,831	+1.5	+5.4	-1.4	174,976	157,398	160,162	+9.2
Unfilled orders . . . . .	389,047	383,570	378,616	+1.4	+1.3	-0.5	392,461	384,904	364,371	+7.7
<b>With unfilled orders :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	141,468	138,477	138,181	+2.2	+0.2	-0.4	140,130	121,799	130,429	+7.4
New orders . . . . .	146,825	143,690	138,348	+2.2	+3.9	-1.5	147,175	133,044	133,011	+10.6
<b>Primary metals :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	15,666	15,551	15,160	+0.7	+2.6	+0.4	16,059	14,820	15,111	+6.3
New orders . . . . .	15,805	15,892	15,114	-0.5	+5.1	+4.4	16,972	16,583	16,043	+5.8
Unfilled orders . . . . .	30,745	30,606	30,265	+0.5	+1.1	-0.2	31,891	30,978	30,622	+4.1
<b>Industrial machinery and equipment:</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	32,155	32,125	32,559	+0.1	-1.3	+2.2	31,750	27,162	31,279	+1.5
New orders . . . . .	33,219	32,504	32,212	+2.2	+0.9	+2.1	32,938	28,561	32,373	+1.7
Unfilled orders . . . . .	73,480	72,416	72,037	+1.5	+0.5	-0.5	74,558	73,370	73,489	+1.5
<b>Electronic and other electrical equipment :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	28,193	26,961	27,757	+4.6	-2.9	-2.3	27,470	23,182	25,426	+8.0
New orders . . . . .	30,563	28,460	24,134	+7.4	+17.9	-13.8	30,275	26,762	24,706	+22.5
Unfilled orders . . . . .	52,680	50,310	48,811	+4.7	+3.1	-6.9	53,586	50,781	50,613	+5.9
<b>Transportation equipment :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	39,905	39,841	38,340	+0.2	+3.9	-1.9	42,751	36,214	39,741	+7.6
New orders . . . . .	40,833	42,353	41,667	-3.6	+1.6	-0.6	43,202	39,452	39,720	+8.8
Unfilled orders . . . . .	256,099	255,171	252,659	+0.4	+1.0	+1.3	255,755	255,304	228,840	+11.8
<b>CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES<sup>3</sup></b>										
<b>Total :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	50,215	49,211	50,744	+2.0	-3.0	+1.2	48,478	40,028	46,212	+4.9
New orders . . . . .	53,876	52,170	51,924	+3.3	+0.5	-1.4	51,981	44,455	48,022	+8.2
Unfilled orders . . . . .	367,529	363,868	360,909	+1.0	+0.8	+0.3	368,366	364,863	341,907	+7.7
<b>Nondefense :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	43,773	43,152	44,612	+1.4	-3.3	+1.5	42,080	35,073	40,441	+4.1
New orders . . . . .	47,554	45,852	43,869	+3.7	+4.5	0.0	46,095	39,082	43,288	+6.5
Unfilled orders . . . . .	257,092	253,311	250,611	+1.5	+1.1	-0.3	258,122	254,107	237,803	+8.5
<b>Excluding aircraft and parts :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	38,015	37,306	38,567	+1.9	-3.3	+1.1	36,561	30,632	35,839	+2.0
New orders . . . . .	40,519	37,914	36,739	+6.9	+3.2	-2.2	39,299	32,549	37,389	+5.1
Unfilled orders . . . . .	98,969	96,465	95,857	+2.6	+0.6	-1.9	99,999	97,261	99,486	+0.5
<b>Defense :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	6,442	6,059	6,132	+6.3	-1.2	-1.0	6,398	4,955	5,771	+10.9
New orders . . . . .	6,322	6,318	8,055	+0.1	-21.6	-8.1	5,886	5,373	4,734	+24.3
Unfilled orders . . . . .	110,437	110,557	110,298	-0.1	+0.2	+1.8	110,244	110,756	104,104	+5.9

(NA) Not available    <sup>2</sup> Revised

<sup>1</sup> Shipments and new orders are the totals for the period and are adjusted for trading-day and calendar-month variations; unfilled orders are as of the end of the period and are not adjusted for trading-day or calendar-month variation.

<sup>2</sup> Based on advance sample. Estimates of manufacturers' shipments, inventories, and orders are subject to survey error and revision. One major component of survey error is nonsampling error, which includes errors of coverage response and nonreporting. Since the survey panel is not a probability sample, estimates of sampling error cannot be calculated. Further details on survey design, methodology, and data limitations are contained in our most recent annual benchmark publication, Current Industrial Reports: M3-1(95), "Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders: 1982-1995."

<sup>3</sup> The Capital Goods Industries include Nondefense : ordnance and accessories, steam engines and turbines, internal combustion engines, construction mining and material handling equipment, metalworking machinery, special industry machinery, general industrial machinery, computer and office equipment, refrigeration, heating and service industry machinery, electrical transmission and distribution equipment, electrical industrial apparatus, communication equipment, complete aircraft, missiles, and space vehicles, aircraft missiles, and space vehicle engines and parts, ships and tank components, railroad equipment, and search and navigation equipment.

Defense capital goods include : ordnance, communication equipment, aircraft, missiles, space vehicles, and parts, ships, tanks and tank components, search and navigation equipment.

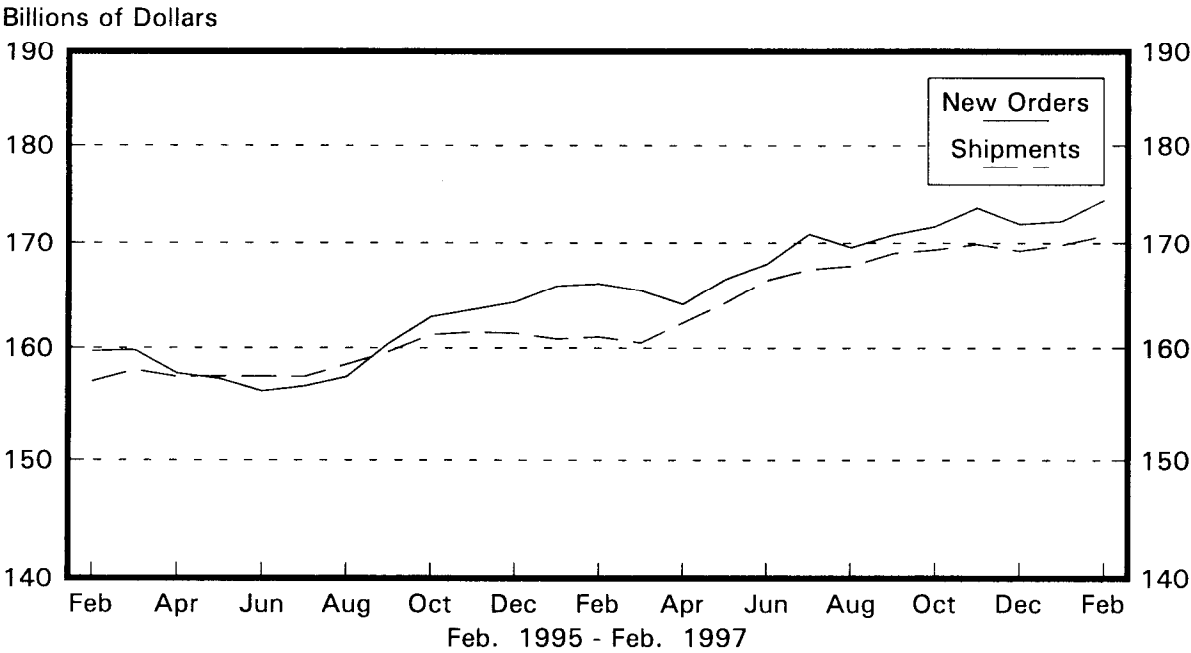
**Table 2. AVERAGE REVISIONS TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED MONTHLY PERCENT CHANGES**  
(Based on seasonally adjusted data)

Industry	Shipments			New Orders			Unfilled Orders		
	Year ago Feb. 1996	Feb. 1992-1996	Feb. 1996- Jan. 1997	Year ago Feb. 1996	Feb. 1992-1996	Feb. 1996- Jan. 1997	Year ago Feb. 1996	Feb. 1992-1996	Feb. 1996- Jan. 1997
Durable goods . . . . .	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1
Primary metals . . . . .	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.5	1.1	0.9	0.2	0.6	0.5
Industrial machinery and equipment . . . . .	2.0	0.6	0.6	1.8	0.5	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.2
Electronic and other electrical equipment . . . . .	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.5	0.3	0.6
Transportation equipment . . . . .	1.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.7	1.4	0.2	0.1	0.2
Nondefense capital goods . . . . .	1.2	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.2
Defense capital goods . . . . .	1.0	0.7	1.2	5.4	5.5	5.1	0.4	0.4	0.2

Note : The revisions are the differences between the month-to-month percent changes of the advance and final estimates. The monthly averages are the simple averages of the differences, without regard for the months specified.

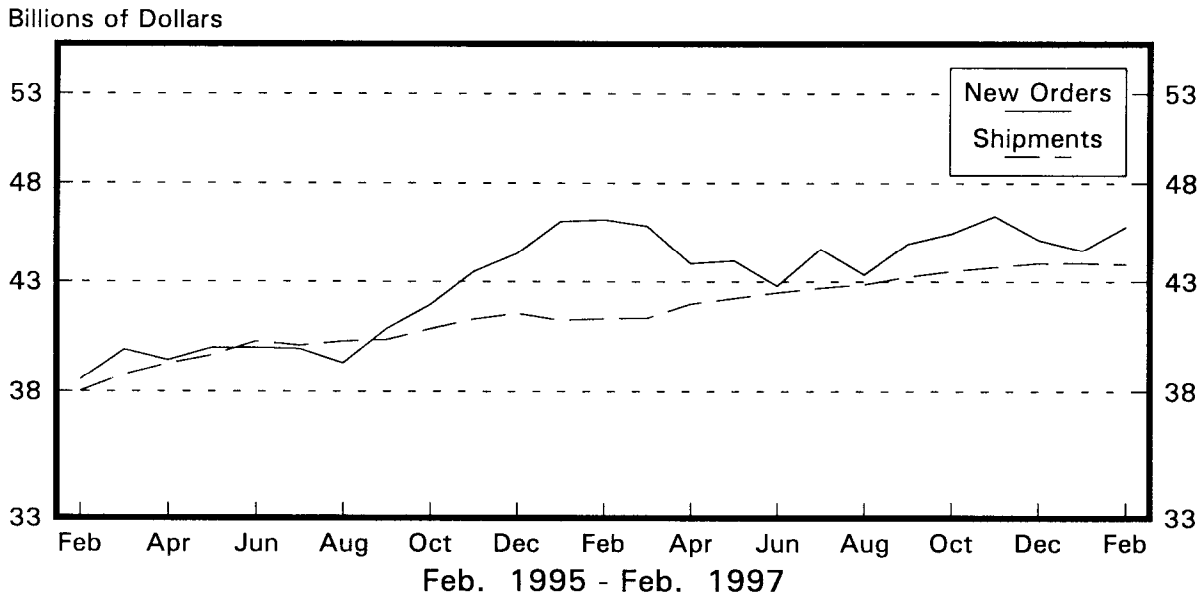
# Total Durable Goods

New Orders and Shipments  
Three Month Moving Averages



# Nondefense Capital Goods

New Orders and Shipments  
Three Month Moving Averages



Note: All Charts based on seasonally adjusted current dollars.